



Deep Valley Sun



Newsletter of the Betsy-Tacy Society

P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094

www.betsy-tacysociety.org

Vol. 1, Issue 3

December 2005

Happy Holidays from Deep Valley!

Thanks to everyone for the support given to the BTS in 2005. Especially to Julie Schrader - I quote *The Free Press* when I give her a thumbs up! The experience with Hometime was a dream come true. I only wish I could flash out a story like Maud because this experience was much like a story she might have told Bick. This was very exciting for Deep Valley. Much like hearing from the King of Spain, winning the queen contest and winning the pie eating contest all rolled into one! Happiest wishes for the new year!

~ Lona Falenczykowski, President

Tacy's Victorian Christmas

Saturdays,

November 26th - December 17th

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Betsy & Tacy invite you to experience a traditional Victorian Christmas! Enjoy hot apple cider and cookies, browse the gift shop & sign up for the door prize.

Join us and begin your Holiday Season in a style that transcends time!

Sat., November 26th

A reading of *Betsy, Tacy & Tib*
Go Christmas Shopping at 1:30 pm

Sat., December 3rd

Author, Lisa Bullard will read
Not Enough Beds, at 1:30 pm

Sat., December 10th

Author, Ruth Berglin, will read,
Dear Big Mean Ugly Monster, at 1:30 pm

Sat., December 17th

A reading of *The Night Before Christmas*
at 1:30 pm

A Longaberger basket representative will be present each Saturday to take orders. Orders made before Dec. 12th will arrive in time for Christmas. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Betsy-Tacy Society.

Dean Johnson and PBS 'Hometime' Show Visit Deep Valley



During the week of October 10th the Betsy-Tacy Society was honored to host Dean Johnson and his PBS television program *Hometime* team as they filmed two episodes featuring restoration work on Betsy's house. The *Hometime* show, which aims to assist people in projects from landscaping to major additions, worked and filmed at Betsy's house for three days.

Ten years ago, when the BTS purchased Tacy's house, Dean Johnson contacted BTS and offered to help with restorations. Johnson had been introduced to the Betsy-Tacy books when he was a fourth-grader in the early 1960s. His tutor, Mrs. Briggs, assigned him to read the books, which left a lasting impression on him. Dean was being home-schooled that year due to an illness and the phone company had set up an innovative intercom system from his house to the school so he could participate in class.

Johnson isn't the only member of the Hometime show that is familiar with the Betsy-Tacy books. Executive Director, Chris Balamut, co-host Miriam Johnson and Construction Manager Judd Nelson had either read the books as a child or to their own children.

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The Betsy-Tacy Society

Est. 1990

P.O. Box 94
Mankato, MN 56002-0094
507-345-8103
www.betsy-tacysociety.org

Our mission is to promote and to preserve Maud Hart Lovelace's books, encourage continued publication and distribution of the books, and restore historical literary landmarks in Mankato.

Board of Directors

President - Lona Falencykowski
Secretary – Dr. Louisa Smith
Treasurer – Barbara Schnoor

Board Members

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Ron Affolter | Judy Ahlstrom |
| Penny Banwart | Peggy Bartelt |
| Sarah Beiswanger | Lillian Dolentz |
| Mark Halverson | Barb Lamson |
| Kelly Reuter | |

Director/Newsletter Editor: Julie Schrader
Membership/Website: Michele Franck Blake
Journal Editor: Dolly Blomquist
Grants Coordinator: Sarah Beiswanger
Construction Manager – David Lamson
Catalog Orders/Shipping: Joan Nikolay
Director Assistant: Mary McGrew

Membership Levels

| | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| \$15.00 | Regular |
| \$25.00 | Patron |
| \$200.00 | Lifetime |
| \$20.00 | Canada |
| \$25 & up | Europe, Asia, Africa |

Contact information:

Mail: P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094
Membership: membership@betsy-tacysociety.org
Shop: shopkeeper@betsy-tacysociety.org

Tours: Call Lona - 507-345-8103 or lonaf@charter.net
For group tours: reservations are requested two weeks in advance of the tour. Any questions or to book a tour, please call Lona – 507-345-8103.

Shop Catalog: send a SASE to P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094 and mark CATALOG on the front of the envelope.

Tacy's House and Gift Shop is open every Saturday afternoon from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Tacy's House is located at 332 Center Street in Mankato and Betsy's House at 333 Center Street.

~ In Memoriam ~

The Betsy- Tacy Society wishes to express our deepest sympathy to the families of Vi Hoehn and Brad Haslip

Donations

The BTS would like to gratefully acknowledge donations received during the months of May 1 through November 15, 2005 from the following:

Memorial donations:

- * So. California Chapter Betsy-Tacy Society – In Memory of Georgenia Irwin
- *Colleen Canavan – In Memory of Barbara Lodin
- *Colleen Canavan – In Memory of Eleanore Zimmerman-O'Bert

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Adkins, Allison | Rafness, Lorna |
| Allen, Rita | Reagan, D.J. |
| Anetsberger, Nancy | Reynolds, Michele |
| Arth, Joan | Richardson, Cecilia |
| Baker, Patricia | Rickert, Anna |
| Barrett, Krista | Rozier, Hilah |
| Baxter, Kathleen | Sasser, Janice |
| Blankenship, Karen | Schnoor, Barbara & Larry |
| Bolander, Bonnie | Shanahan, Susan |
| Brooks, Marilyn | Sheahan, Elizabeth |
| Brummer, Sandy | Sheffieck, Julie |
| Cagnina, Paula | Smith, Dr. Louisa |
| Christ the King | Soule, Lois |
| Lutheran Church | Stilwell, Jean |
| Chuba, Julie | Sweeney, Meghan |
| Cox, Janie | Thiessen, Mary |
| Davies, Elizabeth | Turner, Kathleen |
| Davis-Kay, Jennifer | Wagenhals, Susan |
| Dean, Gail | Wallace, Ann |
| Dempsey, Stephanie | Watson, Linda |
| DeWeese, Shirley | Whiting, Rhonda |
| Ehmke, Judith | Youngren, Phyllis |
| Englund, Christie | Yudiskas, Rose Marie |
| Fahling, Connie | |
| Fedo, Judith | Janine Johnson donated money to purchase a new hot water heater for Betsy's House including installation. Installation work was done by Paul Kvitek of Paul's Plumbing & Heating from Eagle Lake, MN. |
| Frisch, Carlienne | |
| Gast, Patricia | Jennifer Kay-Davis donated money for the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner for Tacy's House. |
| Gesling, Linda | |
| Gorrell, Betsy | Matthew Barnes of North Star Insurance donated money for the framing costs of Cheryl Harness' original artwork, "The Immortal Trio". |
| Grod, Ellen | |
| Heck, Susan | Lindsay Window donated the new storm windows & replacement windows for Betsy's House. |
| Hicks, Jerry | |
| Hindersman, Christie | |
| Hoden, Allison | |
| Holt, Donna | |
| James, Melissa | |
| Just, Denise Billington | |
| Klanderud, Joan | |
| Koebler, Kristeen | |
| Lathrop, Carolynne | |
| Lloyd, Harry | |
| Mader, Jennifer | |
| Malins, Mary | |
| Mergens, Lenora | |
| Messina, Virginia | |
| Newhouse, Sherri | |
| Nezin, Suzanne | |
| Norland, Kris | |
| Pepoy, Cornelia | |
| Peppi, Teri | |

We apologize if we inadvertently omitted anyone from this list. If you do not want your name listed, please make a note with your contribution. Every contribution is appreciated!

Continued from page 1



Installing the new front door. L to R: Dean Johnson, Dennis Weis and in the background is videographer, Jeff Lyman.

Dean Johnson and Chris Balamut contacted us this spring to discuss their interest in helping with our restoration efforts. Society members, our carpenter, Dennis Weis, and volunteers worked closely with Johnson and his crew making arrangements weeks before the work began.

The crew worked on the porch and the south side of the house. Three windows were specially made and donated by Lindsay Window to match the rest of the original windows of the house, as were the storm windows to match. We found a door at a local antique shop that matched Tacy's porch door. This door was purchased with funds donated by Thrivenet Financial for Lutherans and was hung at Betsy's front porch entry. A door to the front parlor was hung where it had originally been when Maud lived in the house. This door had been removed during remodeling sometime in the past. The old concrete steps were removed and new wooden steps were built. Wood siding to match the rest of the original siding was installed and painted. Gutters were installed by Schmidt Siding.



Hometime's Dean Johnson and MSU Construction Management volunteers installing new siding. Videographer, Jeff Lyman.

Hometime History

Hometime Video Publishing Inc. was founded in 1984 by Dean Johnson to provide do-it-yourselfers with a new source of how-to information. Johnson's plan was to produce a series of videotapes for distribution through hardware stores and home centers. The concept was soon expanded to include the television series, which premiered on public television November 1, 1986. In 1992, *Hometime* began airing on The Learning Channel and in 2001 went into syndication. *Hometime* episodes are currently seen in all three venues. To find out which station is airing Hometime where you live, visit their website: www.hometime.com



In foreground is Hometime's Judd Nelson, in window is Dennis Weis with MSU volunteer.





Many Thanks!

Many local businesses were instrumental in supporting the *Hometime* crew's visit, donating supplies and materials that made the restorations possible. They include: Lindsay Windows, Menards, Mutch Hardware, Ron Goodrich Construction, Quality Tree Service, and Schmidt Siding & Window Company. Local restaurants that provided delicious food for the crew were: Cole's Embers, Pagliai's Pizza, and Subway.

We are grateful to Professor Scott Fee and the Minnesota State University-Mankato Construction Management Class, Dennis Weis, David Lamson, and the Betsy-Tacy Society members and volunteers who helped with this project. The BTS also appreciates the coverage given to this story by *The Free Press*, KTOE Radio and KEYC-TV.

On behalf of the Betsy-Tacy Society Board and staff, we appreciate of all this wonderful support!

NOTE: The Hart home (Betsy's House) restoration will be divided into two shows. These will air on PBS stations nationwide on November 26 and December 3.

Wish List For Tacy's House

Here is a list of items needed for Tacy's House.

If you wish to donate any of these items to the BTS or know anyone who does, please contact us. (see page 2)

Office supplies – printer
 Bookcases for shop
 Security System for Betsy & Tacy's house
 Telephone service for Tacy's House
 For programs/events - portable DVD player
 Fireproof safe or cabinet for archival materials
 1905-1930 Otaknam Yearbooks
 Wood kitchen stove
 Cast iron parlor stove with isinglass doors (as described and pictured in "*Betsy-Tacy*" - for pictures see our website.)

Unveiling "*The Immortal Trio*" by Author & Illustrator, Cheryl Harness



Cheryl Harness (left) and Betsy-Tacy Society President, Lona Falencykowski at the unveiling of Cheryl's original painting, *The Immortal Trio* (in the background).

In September, Cheryl Harness visited Tacy's House for the unveiling of her original painting, *The Immortal Trio*. Cheryl created this beautiful piece of artwork for the Betsy-Tacy Society and donated it to us. It has been framed and currently hangs in Tacy's House. Framing was donated by Matthew Barnes from The Hang Ups in Mankato. The society has reproduced *The Immortal Trio* into art prints and note cards to be sold as a fund-raiser for the Society. This would make a great holiday gift for any Betsy-Tacy fan and all the proceeds benefit the Society! We are offering Cheryl's print as a premium with each donation of \$100 or more. See page 8 of this newsletter for more details.

Artifact Donations

Patti Freymuth – "*All About Going Abroad – With Maps and A Handy Travel Diary*" by Harry A. Franck, 1929

Edith Herzberg & Marian Moore – Otaknam (Mankato High School) yearbooks: 1932, 1933, 1934 & 1936 from Harriet Tillman estate.

Sue Ellen Jensen – 2 antique curling irons

Margie Smith Lauruhn – 1943-1945 Otaknam

Mary Malins – Framed and matted Betsy's High Street House by Cheryl Harness

Dr. Louisa Smith – 1921-1924 Otaknam

Deanna Swenson – five Victorian valentines (1896-1904)

Darcy Young - settee & chair

Muriel Oberg – donated Gwen Gerthe's grandmother's wedding dress. Her grandmother was born the same year as Maud.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Over the past few months, the Betsy-Tacy Society has hosted several "Meet the Author" programs. Book titles by these guest authors are now available in our gift shop.



Author Claudia Mills

Claudia is a Betsy-Tacy Society member and has written dozens of children and young adult books, including *Makeovers by*

Marcia, Perfectly Chelsea, Alex Ryan, Stop That! and more. Claudia visited us from Colorado in July.

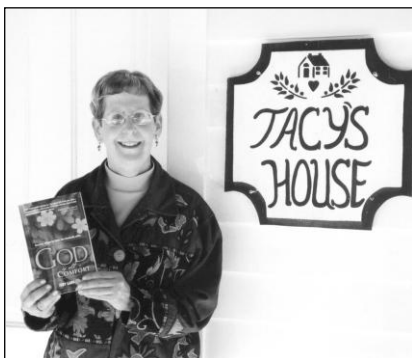
Author Gail Mikkalson

Gail is the author of *View From the Front Room Window*. She spoke about *How to Preserve Your Family Story* and signed copies of her books in September.



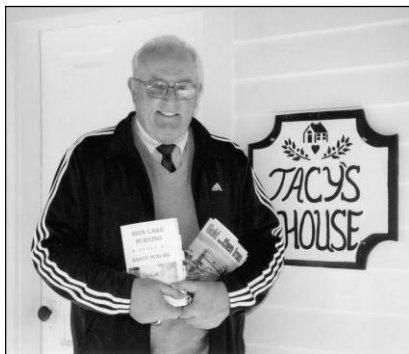
Author Judy Gann

Judy is a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society and lives in Washington. She visited Tacy's House for a book signing, *God of all Comfort: Devotions of Comfort, Strength & Hope for Those who Chronically Suffer*, in October.



Author, Marty Duncan

Minnesota author, Marty Duncan joined us to discuss and sign copies of his books, *Gold...then Iron* and *Iron Lake Burning*.



2nd Annual Deep Valley Book Festival



Ronald McDonald visits with Author, John Koblas at the festival .

The 2nd Annual Deep Valley Book Festival was held at the Midwest Wireless Civic Center on November 12 & 13th. Sixty authors, illustrators, publishers and literary organizations from across the state of Minnesota participated in the two day festival. Hundreds attended the event that featured book signings, programs and presentations, music and fun for all ages.

What a better way to honor the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace than to hold an event that celebrates authors, books, reading and writing in her hometown of Mankato. A Silent Auction was held with all proceeds benefiting the BTS. Over \$1300 was raised for the restoration of Maud Hart Lovelace's childhood home.

Thank you to the Festival Committee:

Julie Schrader, MN Heritage Pub. & the Betsy-Tacy Society
Christine Nessler, Blue Earth County Public Information Specialist
Sarah Gilbert Fredrick, Free-Lance Writer
John Rezmerski, Author and Poet
Jennifer Cassman, Library Specialist, Blue Earth County Library
Rebecca Fjelland Davis, Author
Volunteer coordinators: Jana Bouma & Sharon Dieken
Website Design - Ron Affolter, BTS board member

Thank you to our Sponsors & Contributors: Midwest Wireless Civic Center, Applauze Magazine, The Free Press, Osborne Hicks, LLC, 3M Post-it® Brand Products, McDonald's Restaurants, MICO, Inc., Mankato Convention & Visitor's Bureau, KMSU Radio, KTOE Radio, River Valley Reader, Static Magazine. Thanks also to more than 60 wonderful volunteers who helped to make this event possible. Pictured L to R are 4th grade St. Clair Elementary School students; Annika Nett, Bridget Ireland, and Claire Lang, dressed as Betsy, Tacy & Tib for the book festival.



**Make plans to join us for the
3rd Annual Deep Valley Book Festival on
November 11 & 12, 2006!**

~ Our Summer Photo Album ~

Victorian Lawn Party



On June 4th the Betsy-Tacy Society and the Blue Earth County Historical Society hosted a Victorian Lawn Party. Culver's generously donated frozen custard which is being served by BTS board member, Penny Banwart. Also pictured are Laura Kimes (left), Rhiannon Root (right) and Kayla Hamer from Girl Scout Troop 344 & 401 who volunteered in costume.



Girl Scouts, Laura Kimes and Rhiannon Root posing as Betsy and Tacy cutting paper dolls in front of Tacy's bow window.



Board member, Kelly Rueter and daughter, Allegra present a program about Turn of the Century Fashions.



Master Gardener and Betsy-Tacy Society Board Member, Barb Lamson has worked hard tending the beautiful flower garden at Tacy's House this summer. In June Barb presented a program about Victorian Gardens at Tacy's House



The Betsy-Tacy Society has begun hosting children's birthday parties at Tacy's House to introduce and promote author, Maud Hart Lovelace and her books. A birthday party for Faith Beiswanger (seated at the table) was held in August, 2005. Faith volunteers to work one Saturday a month at Tacy's House with her mother, Sarah.



This picture, taken by Society Director Julie Schrader, was chosen to be used in the 2006 City of Mankato calendar. It was taken at the Lincoln Park Historical Marker Dedication in May. L to R: Peter Steiner, Lona Falenczykowski, Billy Steiner and Bryce Stenzel.

News from Tacy's Gift Shop

Tacy's Gift Shop is filled with wonderful gift ideas for the holidays. The Gift Shop is open every Saturday afternoon from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. For mail orders - shop early to ensure your order is shipped in time for Christmas!

NEW – Betsy-Tacy set of 10 books gift packaged with a satin ribbon. Save when you buy as a set for \$62.00.
The Immortal Trio by Cheryl Harness. \$25.00

Special Holiday Offer

With a purchase of \$50 or more, you will receive a complimentary copy of *Letters from Maud* CD (a \$10 value).

**View our online catalog: www.betsy-tacysociety.org
Your purchase supports the BTS!**

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

If you are interested in volunteering some of your time to help the society, please give us a call. We can find a project to suit your interests and skills. Some examples are:

- Participating on committees/help with programs
- Data entry
- Tour Guides or helping during tours
- House and yard maintenance
- Packaging/Shipping catalog orders
- Mailings, stuffing envelopes, applying labels, stamps
- Fund Raising
- Journal layout/production & Grant Writing

New Members

Every new member receives a new member packet which includes the most recent Journal and newsletter, a History of the Betsy-Tacy Society, a Restoration Fact Sheet, Maud Hart Lovelace Timeline and laminated bookmark. With each new paid Lifetime membership you'll receive a hardcover copy of "Winona's Pony Cart" and a Lifetime Membership Certificate.

As a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society you will:

- Receive our newsletters and Journal.
- Receive a 10% discount at Tacy's Gift Shop or catalog.
- Be part of an important effort to restore Betsy and Tacy's houses, historical literary landmarks in Mankato to educate future generations about the importance of the period.
- Be informed of all upcoming events

Great Gift Idea

Membership to the Betsy-Tacy Society makes a great gift for that special person on your gift list. With each paid gift membership, we'll send a new member packet and sign your name to a special card announcing your gift. Just fill out the membership form below with the recipient's name and mailing address and tell us how to sign your card

Betsy-Tacy Society Membership Form

(Form may be photo-copied)

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Membership Levels

- Regular \$15 (1 yr.)
- Patron \$25 (1 yr.)
- Canada \$20 (1 yr.) (money order in US Funds only)
- Europe, Asia, Africa \$25 and up (1 yr.)
(Money order in US Funds only)
- Lifetime \$200
- This is a Gift Membership – please sign gift card From: _____

Additional Information

- New Member
- Renewal
- If renewing, is this a new address?
- Tax-deductible donation – Betsy-Tacy House Fund -
\$ _____ \$100 Gift choice: Print Maple No Gift _____
- No acknowledgment for donation required

Make checks payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society and send this form to: P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094

For membership office use only: Invoice# _____ Check# _____ Amount paid _____ Date _____ Packet sent _____

Help Us Reach Our Goal!



We've come a long way, but there's much more work to be done!

Your generous donations have allowed us to continue our preservation and

education efforts over the years. With your help we can continue this progress. As the end of another year approaches, we ask that you consider a tax deductible gift to the Betsy-Tacy Society to help us reach our goal of paying off the mortgage. With a monthly mortgage payment of \$962.00, the Society still owes \$48,160.00 for the mortgage on Betsy's house. Thank you for your continued support!

With each donation of \$100 or more you will receive a special gift from us – your choice of *The Immortal Trio* by Cheryl Harness signed/numbered print or a rough piece of Betsy's maple tree (as is) laser imprinted with Lenski's illustration (see image at right).

Contributions to The Betsy-Tacy Society are tax-deductible.

The Betsy-Tacy Society
P.O. Box 94
Mankato, MN 56002-0094

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please remember to inform us if your address changes. Most of our mailings are sent via bulk mail to save on postage costs and keep membership rates low. Bulk mail is not forwarded even when a change of address card is left with the post office.



MEMBERSHIP DUES

You will find your expiration date on the mailing label. If you mailed your membership dues after Nov. 15th, the new expiration date will not be reflected on this mailing label.



Check our website for updates of new events and catalog items
www.betsy-tacysociety.org

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